

NEWS FROM THE HAWAII STATE NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION AND THE HONOLULU COIN CLUB

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## Inclement Weather Doesn't Dampen Aloha Spirit

HAWAII STATE CONVENTION STILL A  
TREAT FOR ATTENDEES

BY HELEN L. CARMODY

The Hawaii State Numismatic Association held its 33rd anniversary convention November 14-17 at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel on Oahu. Although the paid attendance of 1,205 was down from last year due to unusually heavy rain, the convention was considered a success. The 53 table (80 dealer) bourse offered inventory desired by collectors and mainland and local dealers alike. The first day of the state's numismatic event of the year saw good dealer-to-dealer activity, and public attendance increased toward the end of the show. Numismatists look forward to adding to their collections from the fresh material offered each year and benefiting from the dealers' expertise they so willingly share.

President of the American Numismatic Association, Kenneth E. Bressett, said, "This has been an exceptional show for everyone. Attendance was high (considering the weather), and business was good. The several committees that organize the show were active in putting on displays, an educational forum and a bourse."

Adna Wilde, ANA treasurer, commented, "HSNA is always a great convention. My wife, Joan, and I continue to meet old and new friends and fellow numismatists year after year. The

educational programs were outstanding. The Kapiolani Hotel has undergone renovation, which was applauded by all. We look forward to returning next year."

Co-author of the *The Cherrypicker's Guide to Rare Die Varieties*, Bill Fivaz remarked, "My wife, Marilyn, and I had a marvelous time (despite the damp weather). The people of Hawaii are absolutely wonderful...lovely, hospitable, caring and very hard working. Their friendship is contagious, and we are already looking forward to attending next year. A great big 'Mahalo' to HSNA and everyone connected with the show."

Altamonte Springs (FL) dealer, Don Bonser of Tilden & Bonser, commented, "Other than the fact that it's impossible to have a bad show in Hawaii (imagine that!), the show was surprisingly good, considering the current condition of the market. After a slow start---probably caused by one of the heaviest rainstorms in Honolulu in the past decade--business picked up very well and purchasing for my inventory was quite satisfactory for the length of the entire show."

"The educational forum was excellent," remarked Don King of Windward Coins, Kailua (HI). "It was particularly enjoyable to see such experts as Ken Bressert, Bill Fivaz and Lee Kuntz sharing their knowledge with those who attended. The show was productive, despite the fact that business was a bit slower than in the past. There is always a fine turnout, as the convention is run in such a superior manner."

"Business was good," according to James A. Simek of Harlan Berk, Ltd., Chicago (IL). "People came seeking Hawaiiana, small-type

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notes and large-size type notes. Error notes were very popular. As usual, the hospitality of the people--not only those organizing the show but those attending it--was excellent. It is a convention that everybody looks forward to year after year."

James A. Hill of Treasure Trove, San Diego, (CA), commented, "I have been coming to the show for 30 years. It is a nice, friendly convention. Business was slower than usual, but it is always such a pleasure to be here. I sold fewer coins, and most were raw as opposed to slabbed. However, many were expensive items--with collectors taking advantage of the lower prices."

John D. Huntley of College Station (TX) stated, "This is the best show nationwide. The club members treat all dealers with respect, and the Wednesday night cocktail party and banquet on Sunday were outstanding. The people are exceptionally hospitable and the organizers do a great job. This is the seventh year I have been coming here and look forward to it every year."

Craig Watanabe of Captain Cook Coins of Honolulu remarked, "The show was good, considering the economy. It started out slowly, but after that business increased. I was very much pleased with the dealer-to-dealer and retail transactions I encountered."

A 33 year participant of the show, Gene Henry of Gene L. Henry, Inc., Seattle (WA), has the distinction of setting up at every HSNA convention and praised the hospitality of the club's organizers. He said, "Business was little slower because of the economy and the weather, but this is the most fun show I attend, and I love the people here."

Attending her 32nd HSNA convention, Catherine Bullowa of Coinhunter, Philadelphia (PA) observed, "There were many more young collectors, and each 13 years or younger received a door prize. The crowd was enthusiastic. We always try to encourage them by giving them excellent purchases for their budgets. The genuine friendliness of the people make each return trip a joy."

David B. Gere of Nevada Numismatics, Inc., Las Vegas (NV), stated, "Again, we had an excellent show. Even the rain didn't 'dampen' the enthusiasm and trading. Business was brisk, both buying and selling. The educational forum was generous throughout the four-day show. As always, the Aloha spirit of the Island was most appreciated."

Collectors also expressed their reactions. Al Baber of El Cajon (CA), said, "This has been one of the best shows Hawaii has hosted. The banquet was very, very good. Greg Hunt, president of HSNA, does such a good job every year as M.C. It would be nice if all mainlanders would come here at least once. They definitely would return." Also California collectors, Lee and Joyce Kuntz, stated, "It was one of the best shows HSNA has produced! In spite of the rain, we really enjoyed ourselves. More people should come to this convention; they don't know what they are missing. HSNA really cares about its dealers and the collectors who attend."

The educational forum, extremely popular with attendees, featured Ken Bressert, who spoke on "Coins of the Bible" and "Strange Money of the World." Programs presented by Bill Fivaz included "Hobo Nickels," "Counterfeit Detection," "Cherrypicking" and the "Do's and Don'ts of Coin Collecting." Lee Kuntz spoke on the "Bank by the Side of the Road" relating to the Yap Islands, Ted Ashworth shared his knowledge of telephone cards. The forum was jointly sponsored by the Big Island Coin Club and HSNA.

Ten exhibits were displayed at the convention, three of them prepared by junior members. Exhibits are solely for educational purposes and are not competitive. Exhibitors are awarded a unique pewter medal.

The club's banquet took place Sunday evening, preceded by a no-host cocktail hour. Entertainment was provided by an Island musical group and Susanna Hunt dancing the hula and singing. One highlight of the evening was when Al and Dorothy Baber (Krause Publications representatives) presented only the fourth Numismatic Ambassador Award in the State of Hawaii. Charles Matsuda--club officer,

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collector, author, exhibitor and designer of the club medals--was recognized for his avid dedication to the hobby. Another was when M.F. Kendrick was presented the Presidential Award by ANA President, Ken Bressett.

The HSNA's 34th annual convention will be held November 6-9, 1997 at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. For information regarding the Hawaii State Numismatic Association, please write HSNA, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI 96809.

## HSNA ANNUAL MEETING

At the HSNA Board meeting at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel in November the following officers were elected for 1997:

President-----Greg Hunt  
1st Vice Pres.---Glenn Yokoyama  
2nd Vice Pres.--Byron Toma  
Secretary-----Gary Lau  
Treasurer-----M.F. Kendrick  
HCC Reps-----Charles Matsuda and  
W.K. Young  
BICC Reps-----Derrick Ah Sing and  
Walt Southward

It was reported that the six junior members of the HCC under the supervision of Mark Yee are actively studying numismatics and collecting coins. The BICC representatives reported that they now have 10 junior members. They meet monthly at the Army Reserve Center at 470 Lanikaula St. in Hilo.



## The Honolulu Coin Club



The Honolulu Coin Club still meets at the Kalihi YMCA Every second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 pm. Come and join us. Free door prizes, and a auction at every meetings. Open to the public.



## STROKE FELLOWS WALT SOUTHWARD

Big Island Coin Club Secretary and auctioneer, Walt Southward, suffered a serious stroke on March 1, 1997 and has been hospitalized at Hilo Medical Center since then. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Walt and his wife, Leilani, and best wishes for a full and speedy recovery.



## Hawaii Collectors Expo '97

In mid February, HSNA sponsored the 7th annual Collectors Expo at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. Although it was the 7th show, it was the second year for us. The three day show was considered a success, however, the show chairperson was not satisfied in that there were things not fulfilled. Hopefully, some will take place in February 1998.

There were 7,000 people who attended the show which was 100 less than last year. More (25%) was spent for advertising this year. Our dealer/booth numbers were up 10% over last year. There were a couple of factors that possibly contributed to the lower attendance figure. One was some unusually cold and wet weather and, second, other shows in town. We are working to not have any conflicting shows on the same weekend we have our show which is on the 20, 21 and 22 of February 1998. As for mother nature, we hope that she will be kind to us.

As soon as we are able to get confirmation on some of the ideas/events that we are planning, we will make the announcement in the newsletter, newspapers and flyers.

In closing, I wish to thank all who were instrumental in making the show successful. Mahalo!



# MINTING ERRORS AND VARIETIES

BY IRVING KAM

Diamond Stickpin. Stratus Cloud. Floating Head. Monocle Eye. Tombstone Memorial. Flagpole Dome. Horned Head.

Most of this newsletter's readership have probably recognized the preceding as so-called nicknames of errors, that more often than not, is a lot flashier than the numismatic faux pas themselves. Fortunately, said scenario is far from being the norm. This segment of the hobby includes the spectacular as well as the sublime with everything in between. From wrong planchets to doubles dies to multiple strikes. They have proven to be more than a topic of wonder and curiosity but a collecting specialty unto itself.

Some say the first true error to attract major public attention was probably the 1943 "copper penny". The war effort necessitated the replacement of the bronze composition with a zinc coated low-carbon steel combination when copper was deemed a strategic metal. A small number of bronze planchets, left over from the year before, was inadvertently struck with the 1943 date and released into commerce during hectic production levels. For years after the war, a constant rumor had Henry Ford wanting one of these now famous coins and would be willing to exchange a brand new Ford automobile for a specimen. In 1944, while reverting back to copper coinage, a few stray steel flans found it's way through the minting process and another type of this error, but with metallic components reversed, was created. Interestingly, though the 1944 "steelie" is said to be much scarcer, it never garnered the same press or notoriety as it's counterpart. Walter Breen, in his landmark "Complete Encyclopedia of U. S. and Colonial Coins", list the mintages for the 1943 bronze cent as follows: Philadelphia Mint-about 40 known; San Francisco Mint-about 6 known; and Denver Mint-about 24 known respectively. No mintages are given for the 1944 steel cents but is noted simply as "very rare".

Through the years, the field has experienced much positive growth and an important development has been the implementation of the **P-D-S SYSTEM**. Collectible errors and varieties are divided into three categories with the **P** representing planchet errors, the **D** representing the die errors, and the **S** representing the striking errors. This system, by coincidence, utilizes the same initials as the three primary U.S. mints thereby making it very easy to remember. The division of planchet errors include laminations, wrong planchets, clips, blanks, improper mixes, split planchets, was well as many others. The division of die errors include die cracks, die breaks, repunched dates, overmintmarks, doubled dies, die clashes, collar breaks, to name a few. The famous 1955-**P Doubled Die** and the 1972-**P Doubled Die** fall into this grouping as rotated hub doubling varieties. The division of striking errors include brockages, capped dies, struck throughs, double strikes, indents, die adjustment strikes, and so forth. This system is surely a considerable advancement from the days when an error coin was sometimes called a **FIDO**, an acronym for Freaks, Imperfections, Defects and Oddities.

While perusing through various hobby publications, it is very apparent that the interest in die varieties is intense. A recent issue of *Coin World* ran a front page item of a newly discovered 1914/3 **Indian Head Nickel** overdate and the *Numismatic News* did likewise featuring an 1890 **Liberty Head nickel** with a repunched date. Bold type face and super close up photos were included in both instances. It seems like more dealers are moving into this area as witnessed by the offerings in their ads. Articles and columns are more frequent and the pertinent section of the classifieds appear to have increased. Even a third party grading company have realized financial possibilities by running a full page ad offering to slab varieties for those who want or need that sort of thing.

Getting started in the hobby can be measurably painless considering all the services already available at this time. Clubs such as **CONECA** (Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error

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Collectors of America) are highly recommended and membership is encouraged. They produce a semi-monthly newsletter called the "ERRORSCOPE", maintain a well stocked library, operate a low cost authentication department, and many other incentives. CONECA also conducts an annual "ERRORAMA" show, usually in conjunction with a major show convention, which offer educational forums, related programs, and of course, lots of error/variety material for sale. Books have always been an important learning tool and in this case is represented quite well. One that is often ascribed to is "THE OFFICIAL PRICE GUIDE TO MINT ERRORS AND VARIETIES" penned by Alan Herbert. It is well written, informative, and an indispensable reference source. The same can be said of "THE CHERRYPICKERS GUIDE TO RARE DIE VARIETIES" authored by recent H.S.N.A. guest speaker Bill Fivaz and J.T. Stanton. This text has really become the definitive work on the subject and is being updated even as we speak.

As always, the bottom line is to have fun and the error/variety encounter offers this and more. A good working understanding of the minting process will forever be an asset, even in other areas of the hobby, because the biggest benefit of all is the knowledge.

Hitler Mustache. Loose Toupee. Comet "O". Lady Bird Egg on Roof. Bespeckled President. Cowlick. Ghost of Lincoln.

Aloha! Pau.

## HONOLULU COIN CLUB

November 1996--Thank you to the following club members for their display at the HSNA November show at the Queen Kapiolani Hotel.

Junior members:

Christine Izuo---currency

Cherylin Izuo---silver Washington quarters

CareyAnne Izuo--wooden nickels

Paul Luke--Las Vegas nickel rolls

Deacon Lau--casino gambling chips and tokens

Gary Tanaka--school tokens

Denis Tomiyasu--currency

Jim Simek--currency and foreign quarters

Crane Saito--Capt. Cook medals

Mark Yee--currency

W.K. Young---currency

A big mahalo to all who helped make the show a big success.

December 1996--The annual Christmas party was held at the Kapahulu Senior Citizen Center on Campbell Avenue and was attended by over 80 members and guests. A great time was had by all. Games, singing, good food and door prizes highlighted the evening.

## HONOLULU COIN CLUB STATEHOOD DAY COIN SHOW KAPALAMA SCHOOL CAFETORIUM

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### *Saint Louis Anniversary Medal*

Last year's HSNA Show medal honoring Saint Louis College 150th Anniversary still available. Sold as pairs of Silver (.999 fine) and Bronze. To order write to HSNA, P.O. Box 477, Honolulu, HI 96809, plus \$2.00 for postage and insurance.



## *Junior News*

### Star Notes From Circulation

BY CHRISTINE IZUO

I have been collecting star notes for two years. I have found at least one each of the following: one dollar, five dollar, ten dollar, twenty dollar, fifty dollar and one hundred dollar. Star notes are easy to collect because you can find them in circulation.

Star notes are made to replace error notes found by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing production before they leave the printing facility. They also replace defective notes, thus catching a nickname of "replacement" or "star" notes.

In recent years, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing production was running at a level averaging about thirty five million Federal Reserve Notes a day. Printing these many bills a day would most likely result in many error notes because the process of printing the notes is highly mechanized, however, less than 1% result in errors.

There are several spots in the process where inspections of the bills occur, including human inspections. One human inspection takes place before the 32 note sheets are split in two, and another when 16 note sheets are delivered to the COPE Pak machines for overprinting, counting and packaging. Lastly, there is a random inspection when the banded notes pass a note examining station.

These examinations pick out many errors, but of course, not all. When an error note is found, or a defective note is found, that one note is destroyed and another one with the same serial number is reprinted. This time, in place of the suffix letter at the end of the serial number, a star is added to show that the note was reprinted. On Silver Certificates, U.S. Notes and Gold Certificates, that star was a prefix to the serial number instead.

You can't really determine the expected number

of star notes each year, but altogether, star notes average a fraction of the total number or regular notes released. This makes them tougher to find, therefore, it has a premium value compared to the regular issue notes. This premium value is generally higher on the earlier notes and relatively small on the newer ones.

### My Mercury Dime Collection

BY CHERYLIN IZUO

My name is Cherylin Izuo. I am thirteen years old and I collect Mercury dimes. I have almost the entire collection completed except for the 1926S, 1931D and of course the famous 1916D. I don't count the 1942/1 because it is actually an error and not a regular mint production. Most of my collection were found looking through the junk silver from a company that bought and sold gold and silver. I also have a completed collection of silver Roosevelt dimes found the same way, but that is a story for another article.

The Mercury dime got its name by how it looked. At the time it was circulated, people thought it looked like Speedy Mercury, the messenger of the Gods in Roman mythology. In reality, the front of the Mercury dime is Lady Liberty (Elsie Wallace Stevens). However, Lady Liberty resembled Mercury because on the day that her portrait was put on the dime, she was wearing a winged cap, which represented freedom.

In 1915, the public tired of the Barbers coin designs so the Treasury Department had decided to have a competition for new designs for a dime, quarter, and half dollar. For the 10 cent piece, sculptor Adolph Alexander Weinman's "Winged Liberty Head" was selected on March 3, 1916. His design featured Lady Liberty. In June 1916, the coins were ready to be distributed and on October 28, 1916 they were distributed.

Different people called the Mercury dime by different names. Some people called them "golf dimes" because on the back of the dimes is a battle axe surrounded by a bundle of rods. (This represented the nation's preparedness to defend

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## Mercury Dime

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its liberty) and an olive branch (symbolizing its love and peace). Many people thought, however, that this looked like a golf bag and clubs. Other people called them "Wilson dimes" because they mistook Weinman's initials for President Woodrow Wilson, but the first person that said the dime had a resemblance to Mercury was a New York coin dealer, David Proskey.

In 1945, Franklin D. Roosevelt had passed away which induced the Treasury officials to propose that his portrait be put on a coin's regular issue to commemorate him. The only coin available without special legislation were the Lincoln cent, Mercury dime and the Walking Liberty half dollar. For unknown reasons, officialdom chose the Mercury dime which ended the production of them.

## TREE GECKO, the last of the Woods on Hawaii Endangered Wildlife



The twentieth and final wood of the Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife features the tree gecko. Tree geckos are the least common of all the geckos found in Hawaii. Different from other geckos that live in houses or buildings, they dwell in forest areas and found under tree bark and more wooded areas. With the continued urban development and habitat modification, their numbers seem to dwindle. A nocturnal feeder, the tree gecko uses its long tongue and cat-like night time vision feeding on insects--

cockroaches especially being on their menu. Scientifically called *hemiphylladactylus typus typus*, the tree gecko measures in length about 2 1/4 to 3 1/2 inches on average, has a slender head, body and tail with various shades of brown in color and sometimes turning black in color changes. The female gecko lays two eggs adaptable to any surface and takes about two months to hatch. They can be found in all of the main islands.

The silversword makes up the reverse of the wooden token. A family of the sunflower, this beautiful silver colored circular cluster of leaves grows on the mountains of Haleakala, Maui and Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea on the Big Island. They are much scarcer on the Big Island. *Argyroxiphium sandwicense*, the scientific name, meaning "Silversword of the Sandwich Island". Sandwich Island is a name given by Capt. James Cook during his discovery of the Hawaiian Islands in 1778 in honor of the 4th Earl of Sandwich of England.

The silversword grow in cindery, dry, desertlike mountain environment. They can survive in extreme heat and cold temperatures with little rain. But with heavy grazing by wild goats, sheep and domestic cattle, the silversword plant was on the brink of extinction. Thanks to the help of the National Park Service, the State of Hawaii and volunteers, a control system of animals, Public Education and other programs in effect, saved the silversword. This is the last of the series of Hawaiian Endangered Wildlife. The Honolulu Coin Club thanks everyone who participated in collecting the series. To order the final series, please send a stamped self addressed envelope and 50c per wood to : Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818. Be sure to put enough postage if ordering more than one.

Mahalo!

## *Birds of Hawaii Medal*

The fifth set of Birds of Hawaii series still on sale. Both in bronze and silver the sets are price at \$25.00 plus \$3.00 for postage and handling. To order please write to Honolulu Coin Club, P.O. Box 6063, Honolulu, HI 96818





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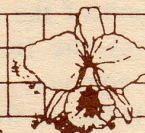
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